

**2010 King County Board for Developmental Disabilities
20th Annual Legislative Forum**

ADEQUATELY ADDRESS NEEDS OF THE EARLY INTERVENTION SYSTEM

Early Intervention Services are essential to the healthy development of infants and toddlers with developmental delays. In King county 27% of the infants and toddlers who participate in early intervention no longer need special intervention services by age three. Since 2008 DSHS/DDD funding for this entitlement service has been lidded. Due to increase enrollment in King County, this resulted in a 30% reduction in DDD funding for each enrolled child. In 2008, early intervention agencies provided \$1,000,000 in uncompensated services. One-third of the counties have no DDD funding available to support early intervention services. As the population of Washington has grown so has the number of infants needing early intervention services. This is not a population that can wait.

***The Board recommends** the Legislature designate county developmental disabilities base rate funding for each eligible child to address the increased demand for early intervention services.*

ESTABLISHING INSURANCE PARITY AND BEST PRACTICES FOR SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Children with DD need specialized therapies and specialized learning strategies. This is especially true for children experiencing Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The Center for Disease Control reports that 1 in every 150 births fall within this category. Two major obstacles for effective and appropriate intervention are a health care system, which does not allow for coverage of necessary and timely interventions and the cessation of neurodevelopmental therapy coverage at age 7 in most insurance plans.

***The Board recommends** consideration of last sessions bill SHB 1412 which extends neurodevelopmental therapies through age 18 and includes evidence based therapies for children with autism.*

BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN CRISIS

The Board believes that children need families to live and grow. Over 8,000 families have requested low-cost, high impact Family Supports. Because of the lack of resources to address individuals with complex issues, 38 young people under the age of 21 have been placed in State Residential Habilitation Centers (institutions). In addition, many young adults are without adequate services, placing undue stress on caring families. An ever increasing number of adults are living at home without adequate resources to allow them to engage in meaningful activities during the day. Families constitute the largest number of Long Term Care providers throughout the DD system. It is time for the State of Washington to carefully examine the current distribution of scarce resources and make hard decisions based upon economic efficiency and best practice in supporting individuals in their home communities as respected and full participants. This calls for rethinking the need for institutional services at the current level.

***The Board recommends** adequate funding for Family Supports, including Individual Family Services, Intensive In-Home Behavior Supports, Crisis Intervention, and consideration of reestablishing the successful Voluntary Placement Program for shared parenting living arrangements. These services would enable local communities to promote healthy family in order to enable local communities to promote healthy family environments for all individuals in need and put the State of Washington in concert with the Presidential designation as this being the "Year of Community Living" to promote independence . In order to accomplish this, the State must consolidate State institutions and design a plan to increase community competencies and reduced reliance on institutional care.*

SERVICES FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Legislature has long recognized the importance of ensuring there are funds available to assist young adults to move from school to adult employment services. King County, in collaboration with a series of partners, has developed working relationships with school districts to improve outcomes in this important transition. In King County approximately 70% of graduates are non-waiver and live with their families. As national leaders in transition King County believes individuals should have equal access to good outcomes upon leaving school regardless of their waiver status.

***The Board recommends** the Legislature appropriate funds to ensure there are available and appropriate programs for all individuals with DD transitioning from high schools.*

THE GROWING AGING POPULATION IN THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY

There are approximately 1,500 families statewide who have a family member with a developmental disability who is 40 years of age or older living at home. These families have been an important source of care in the DD system and need additional supports due to issues related to aging.

***The Board recommends** the Legislature add funding to assist families in this situation with necessary in-home and residential supports.*

The Board Also Supports:

- **Addition of excess properties at Fircrest School to the DD Land Trust (Dan Thompson Land Trust)**
- **A one-time-only contribution of \$5 million to the DD Endowment Fund**